

Amendments to the Claims

Please cancel Claims 2, 14, 17-49 and 54-54 without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein.

Please amend Claims 1, 3, 5, 9, 12, and 15, to read as follows.

1. (Currently Amended) A liquid transfer device transferring liquid for enhancing durability of an image on onto a printed surface of a printed product printed with ink, comprising:

a liquid transfer member having a transfer surface contacting the printed surface of said the printed product and transferring the liquid on onto the printed surface of said the printed product,

said liquid transfer member including

a liquid accumulating portion accumulating the liquid; and
a restricting portion, formed from a porous film formed with fine pores, supplying the liquid in said liquid accumulating portion to said transfer surface with restriction,

wherein said porous film has a thickness of 10 to 200 μm , and diameters for the fine pores are in the range of 0.1 to 3 μm , and

wherein the liquid in the liquid accumulating portion is supplied to the printed product through the porous film by a depression force.

2. (Canceled).

3. (Currently Amended) The liquid transfer device as claimed in claim 2 1, which further comprises a holding member for receiving and holding said liquid transfer member.

4. (Original) The liquid transfer device as claimed in claim 1, wherein said liquid accumulating portion is formed from a sheet form member having uniform density.

5. (Currently Amended) The liquid transfer device as claimed in claim 3, wherein said holding member includes a surface supporting frame formed with an opening portion exposing said restricting portion and a dish shaped receptacle member having a flange mating with a lower surface of said surface supporting frame, and said liquid transfer member is received within a receptacle space defined by said receptacle member and said surface supporting frame.

6. (Original) The liquid transfer device as claimed in claim 1, wherein said liquid accumulating portion is formed from a sheet form member having different density in thickness direction thereof.

7. (Original) The liquid transfer device as claimed in claim 6, wherein said liquid accumulating portion is formed from a sheet form member provided with treatment for continuously varying a density in thickness direction with a predetermined gradient.

8. (Original) The liquid transfer device as claimed in claim 6, wherein said liquid accumulating portion is formed by laminating a plurality of sheet form members having different densities.

9. (Currently Amended) The liquid transfer device as claimed in claim 2 1, wherein capillary forces of said liquid accumulating portion, said porous film and the printed surface of said printed product are set for establishing a relationship:
liquid accumulating portion < porous film < printed surface of printed product.

10. (Original) The liquid transfer device as claimed in claim 8, wherein densities of respective sheet form members forming said liquid accumulating portion are set for producing greater capillary force at closer position to said transfer surface.

11. (Original) The liquid transfer device as claimed in claim 7, wherein said liquid accumulating portion is formed with a first layer and a second layer having different densities, said first layer is located at a position more distant from said transfer surface than said second layer, and said first layer has greater density than said second layer.

12. (Currently Amended) The liquid transfer device as claimed in claim 11, which further comprises a holding member receiving said liquid transfer member, said holding member ~~includes~~ including a surface supporting frame having an opening portion, into which said first layer covered with said restricting portion is inserted, and a dish shaped receptacle member having a flange mating with a lower surface of said surface supporting frame,

wherein said second layer is received with within a receptacle space defined by said receptacle member and said surface supporting frame, ~~and~~ said first layer covered by said restricting portion projects upwardly from a surface of said surface supporting frame, and a surface of said restricting portion forms a transfer zone.

13. (Original) The liquid transfer device as claimed in claim 11, wherein said first layer and said second layer are formed from a fibrous body or a foamed sponge body, a density of said first layer is in a range of 0.05 to 0.5 g/cc, and a density of said second layer is in a range of 0.01 to 0.2 g/cc.

14. (Canceled).

15. (Currently Amended) The liquid transfer device as claimed in claim 1, wherein said liquid transfer member has a normally flat transfer surface, when the printed product is mounted and urged onto said transfer surface, said liquid accumulating portion is elastically deformed corresponding to a curved shape of the printed surface of said the printed product so that said the curved printed surface and said transfer surface are contacted over entire area.

16. (Original) The liquid transfer device as claimed in claim 15, wherein stripe form grooves are formed on a bottom surface of said liquid accumulating portion.

17-49. (Canceled).

50. (Original) A liquid transfer method for transferring liquid enhancing durability of an image to a printed surface of a printed product printed with ink, comprising the steps of:

providing a liquid accumulating portion accumulating the liquid and a restricting portion restrictingly supplying the liquid in said liquid accumulating portion to a transfer surface contacting the printed surface of said printed product, and

transferring the liquid supplied through said restricting portion by mounting the printed surface of said printed product on said transfer surface in contact therewith.

51. (Original) The liquid transfer method as claimed in claim 50, wherein said printed surface of said printed product has an area greater than said transfer surface, and said printed surface is contacted with said transfer surface dividedly for a plurality of times.

Claims 52-54 (Canceled).